

Non-Stop Promotion

Biodiesel Tops List Of Ky. Soybean Board Efforts

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Many activities are on the agenda for the Kentucky Soybean Association, but, according to President Aaron Reding, biodiesel is a top issue. Reding spoke at the 5th Annual Soybean Promotion Day at Murray State University recently.

"In Kentucky, we're really forcing it," he said. "We have two boards that really work well together, the Kentucky Soybean Association and the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. I think the two working together have been and will continue to be able to do a lot of good things, a lot of positive things for soybean farmers in the state."

Of particular interest in the state earlier this year was the legislative session. The association was closely keeping track of activities there and lobbying for issues that promote soy.

Your Neighbor' event where we invite the neighborhood, we open up a new hog facility and have a bar-be-que dinner that night to show the public how environmentally friendly and modern the new hog houses are," Clark said. "Also we have a booth at the National Farm Machinery Show where we set up and we sell soy products. The Kentucky Soybean directors are there to help with information on biodiesel, or animal agriculture, and the new uses of soybeans so the farmers can walk through and talk with their peers about soybean issues."

The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board also has a booth at the state fair where many fairgoers ask questions about cooking with soy.

"We have a lot of soy recipe books there for them and also have information about biodiesel and animal agriculture and other things, but we also have a table set up where children can sit down in our booth and make drawings of farm



Visiting during a lull in the Soybean Promotion Day are, from left, Ray Hughes, Aaron Reding, President of the Kentucky Soybean Association; and Ron Davis, DuPont Young Leader For 2009. Photo by John LaRose Jr.

"We're in touch with certain members of the legislature especially on the ag committee and also at our annual meeting, our membership has an opportunity to vote on our resolutions, our policy and to make new policy, if that's the direction that the membership chooses to go; and then we carry that message to our representatives in Frankfort," Reding said.

"Biodiesel is always important and we always try to at least keep that on the radar screen, so to speak, for our legislators," he continued. "One of the biggest issues that we've taken up just in the past few years and it remains at the forefront is reminding our membership and talking to our representatives about the importance of animal agriculture and how much livestock producers mean for us as soybean farmers in terms of the amount of soybean meal that livestock consumes."

Reding is also a director on the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board, the group which handles and distributes the checkoff in the state. This group continues to look at ways to help fund research and develop projects that, in the long run, will be a benefit for Kentucky growers. He had a final word for soybean growers:

"I'd like to convey to readers the importance of being members of the association," he said. "As a policy organization, when we can talk to our legislators and tell them that we represent 900 soybean farmers across Kentucky, or 1,000 or 1,100, the number of members means something to those who represent us. So the larger our membership, the stronger our voice can be. All soybean farmers are going to benefit from the policies that are being made in Frankfort or Washington, D.C. and so I really think it's important for every soybean farmer to be a member and to help us carry their voice to our respective representatives."

Dennis Clark, Vice Chairman of the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board, spoke of more efforts underway for soybean growers.

"One of the number one priorities of the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board is animal agriculture and we have done what we call a 'Meet

scenes to get them familiar with what goes on at a farm," Clark said.

The Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board also works with universities, including the University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University and Murray State University, and has several research projects underway every year with the researchers on soybean varieties, rust, fungicides that are best used for rust. The group also sponsors the soybean rust hotline where people can call and learn where rust has shown up during the year. Farmers may call the hotline toll free at 888-321-6771.

"We also exhibit at the Mid America Trucking Show held in Louisville," he said. "It's the largest truck show of it's kind in the world and there we team up with the National Biodiesel Board to get information out to the nation's truckers about biodiesel. If all the nation's truckers would use just 2 percent biodiesel, that would use the oil from 450 million bushels of soybeans. That's a big plus.

"We also do a truck wrap where we take a trailer and wrap the biodiesel logo on this trailer and then this trailer sends it's message out all over the United States," Clark said. "The message is 'let's clear the air with biodiesel.' Biodiesel has been one of the big success stories for the United Soybean Board and the American Soybean Association because the United Soybean Board took checkoff dollars and developed, promoted and researched biodiesel to get it out to the market. Then the American Soybean Association came along and did the legislative part of it."

Clark said tax incentives were needed to make biodiesel work, so the association went to Congress and had tax incentives passed and signed into law.

"Then we have here today the Murray State Soybean Promotion Day," Clark explained. "That's where Murray State University and the Kentucky Soybean Board team up to show our appreciation of you, the American soybean farmer."

Anyone wanting more information about soy can log on to www.kysoy.org. △